

A Word from the Manager

Dear Valued Guest,

On behalf of the staff, welcome to Hotel Valhalla. We recognize that there were other options for your afterlife. We thank you for the selfless sacrifice that landed you here among Odin's chosen warriors instead of elsewhere.

You will encounter many powerful deities, magical beings, and fantastic creatures as an *einherji*. You may have questions about them. You may decide to ask me those questions. In fact, if more than a millennium of experience is any indication, you *will* ask me. Of course, as manager of this fine establishment, I'll be happy to answer them. But I'll be even happier if you consult this guide before you ring the front desk. I do have a hotel to run, after all.

With insightful interviews and scintillating stories, insider information and random remarks, this book allows you to explore the lives of our worlds' inhabitants from the comfort of your room. As you read, you may wish to ponder the possibility of your own heroic tale finding a page in future editions of this book.* Will your deeds earn you a coveted seat at the thanes' table, or will they be less than satisfactory, securing your role as servant to those who answer Odin's call? If the former, I will be the first to welcome you, for I myself am a thane. If the latter, please confer with Hunding the bellhop about your duties.

For now, though, sit back, relax, and enjoy your ongoing death, your daily resurrection, and your everlasting stay here.

—Helgi Manager of Hotel Valhalla SINCE 749 C.E.

^{*} All publications and the proceeds thereof will become the property of Hotel Valhalla.